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[Signature]

03560.003451

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Application of:

Yoshikazu MIYAJIMA et al.

Application No.: 10/820,120

Filed: April 8, 2004

For: STAGE APPARATUS, EXPOSURE SYSTEM
USING THE SAME, AND DEVICE
MANUFACTURING METHOD

)
: Examiner: K. C. Gutierrez
)
: Group Art Unit: 2851
)
: Confirmation No.: 8660
)
:
) October 18, 2005
:
)

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Response to Election of Species Requirement With Petition for Extension of Time in the above-identified application.

☒ No additional fee is required.


The fee has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	15	MINUS	20	0	x \$25 \$50	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	4	MINUS	4	0	x \$100 \$200	\$0.00
Fee for Multiple Dependent claims \$180/\$360						
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT---						\$0.00

☐ Verified Statement claiming small entity status is enclosed, if not filed previously.

- ☐ A check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed to cover the additional claims fee.
- ☐ Charge \$____ to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.
- ☒ Any prior general authorization to charge an issue fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18 to Deposit Account No. 06-1205 is hereby revoked. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of this application, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$120.00 to cover the extension fee for response within one additional month is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$____ to cover the Information Disclosure Statement fee is enclosed.
- ☒ Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

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In re Application of:)
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Application No.: 10/820,120)
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RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT
WITH PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

Applicants petition the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated August 18, 2005, for one month from September 18, 2005, up to and including October 18, 2005. A check in the amount of \$120.00 for payment of the extension fee is enclosed. Please charge any additional fee required for the extension, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants respectfully traverse the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action dated August 18, 2005.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the subject application contains four patentably distinct species of the invention. As asserted by the Examiner, Species I includes Fig.

1, Species II includes Fig. 2, Species III includes Fig. 3, and Species IV includes Fig. 4A.

A careful review of the subject application reveals that the various embodiments are so closely related as to not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicants nor the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office should be put through the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. In addition, Applicants submit that the public-at-large should not be required to obtain and study several patents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

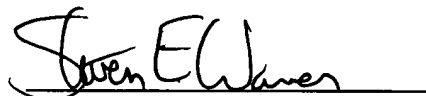
Still further, the making of an election species is not mandatory in all instances where it is possible to do so. Rather, the Examiner may use his discretion and choose not to make an election of species where circumstances warrant. It is believed that such is the case in the subject application. Therefore, Applicants request, under 37 CFR 1.143, that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the election requirement set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.146, and MPEP § 809.02(a), Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Species 1, namely 1-15. Applicants believe that claim 1 is generic to all four species.

Applicants further submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and early passage to issue are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

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